

Character and Life Skills: Honor

Lesson Title: Banner of Honor

Grade Level: 3-5



Project and Purpose

Students will identify members of the community that provide services that affect all of us and design a pennant in their honor.

Essential Question

How can we honor members of our community for their services?

Materials

- Smartboard or White Board
- **American Holidays** teacher handout
- **Pennant Outline** worksheet
- crayons, markers, colored pencils
- string
- glue, tape, or staples to attach pennants to string

Procedure

Introduction

Begin the activity by asking students to define the word “honor”. Record their responses on the board.

Note: If your students do not mention the difference between being an honorable person (acting with integrity, demonstrating trustworthiness, etc.) and honoring a person, event, object or action (celebrating a birthday, awarding a certificate for a job well done, etc.), you will need to prompt them to do so.

Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Explain to your students that every year, people living in the United States celebrate holidays to honor a special person, event, object or action.
2. Using the American Holidays teacher handout as a guide, list a few holidays on the board and talk out loud as you think of who/what the day is honoring.
 - Ex. Martin Luther King Jr. Day honors MLK, who fought to win civil rights for all people. New Year’s Day honors the start of a new year.

Guided Exploration (We do)

1. Write several important days on the board and have students pair with a partner to discuss who/what the day honors.
2. Call on a few students to share their responses and record them on the board for each holiday.
3. Explain to your students that several people within their local community deserve to be honored for the ways in which they serve others or for the heroic acts they perform. Offer one example from the list below and then solicit additional ideas from your students. Record student responses on the board, along with why each person deserves to be honored.
 - Examples: a fire fighter, a police officer, a hospital staff member, a librarian, a teacher, a weatherman etc.

Independent Practice (You do)

1. Explain to your students that they will work together as a class to create a “Banner of Honor” praising individuals who serve the local community. Each student will decorate a pennant that honors their chosen person. The pennants will be connected with a string to create a banner.
2. Allow students to choose which individual or group they wish to honor by referring to the class list and pass out the **Pennant Outline** handout.
3. Instruct each student to write on their pennant at least one sentence explaining why he or she is honoring the individual or group.

Conclusion

Have students explain their pennants aloud as you attach it to the string and create the banner. Ask students how today’s activity helped them understand “honor”.

Vocabulary

heroic (adj.)

Definition: extremely brave or determined; admired by many people

Context: The heroic firefighters carried my grandmother from her home as it was burning.

honor (n.)

Definition: showing respect; giving praise; remembering; the respect that someone or something receives from other people

Context: We honor the American flag by putting our hands over our heart when we recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

memorial (adj.)

Definition: performing, happening or occurring in order to remind people of someone who died

Context: Our family held a memorial service to honor and remember our grandmother when she died.

Activity Information Sheet: American Holidays

Below is a list of holidays honoring a person, event, object or action.

New Year's Day (January 1)	Honors the arrival of the new year
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (third Monday in January)	Honors the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who struggled to win civil rights for all people through nonviolent methods
Presidents' Day (third Monday in February)	Honors: George Washington, a hero of the Revolutionary War and the first U.S. president; Abraham Lincoln, the president who fought to end slavery; and all past presidents for their service
Earth Day (April 22)	Honors and encourages environmental awareness
Mother's Day (second Sunday in May)	Honors all mothers
Memorial Day (last Monday in May)	Honors the U.S. military personnel who died fighting for and upholding our freedom
Flag Day (June 14)	Honors the American flag
Father's Day (third Sunday in June)	Honors all fathers
Independence Day (July 4)	Honors the day Americans won their freedom from Britain and signed the Declaration of Independence
Labor Day (first Monday in September)	Honors the nation's workforce
Patriot Day (September 11)	Honors the memory of all who died as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001 and recognizes the selfishness and courage of those who aided the rescue and recovery efforts
Columbus Day (second Monday in October)	Honors Christopher Columbus' landing in the New World
Veterans Day (November 11)	Honors all Americans who served admirably in the military in wartime and in peace
Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November)	Honors the goodwill relationship between the pilgrims and local Indians

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I honor _____
for _____

